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A Crucial Decision

IN his budget next month Finance Minister Fleming will be faced with one of the most difficult decisions of the times. On the one hand he is being exhorted to put his weight against the forces of inflation which would drive down the value of the dollar; and on the other by a variety of means to take a directly opposite course. Apart from all advice, there is also Canada's position in the export markets of the world; and the inseparable influences binding some of its economy to the level of business current in the United States. At the same time on its own account the Dominion is being faced with harder fiscal problems than it has known at any time in the postwar period.

Bank, insurance and trust company officials in their recent year-end statements have been more outspoken on the central issue in the debate than is customary for them. Many have warned against the illusions of an intlationary economy, which in the long run could have only one result. Mr. H. L. Guy, president of the Mutual Life Assurance Company, speaking recently on the subject, offered some concrete suggestions. He said Canada's need was for a dependable dollar, economic freedom, and an expanding level of general trade. It was necessary, he said, to reaffirm belief in the basic soundness of a free economic system; to understand that public interest is not served by artificial restraints on competition, and to strive for a more orderly expansion of international trade.

Much has been said along the same line of reasoning, and much again in a contrary fashion. The difficulty facing Mr. Fleming is to make due provision for the services of the country now with all of the problems of the times, internal and external, demanding urgent attention and rendering any one-piece solution difficult. One thing is clear and that is that Canada cannot have it both ways; it cannot be inflation and reflation at one and the same time. National caution should suggest that this is a year to consider that which is possible, while much else considered desirable may have to wait.

No one will profit if, vis-a-vis the currencies of the world, the Canadian dollar cannot be expressed in stable terms.

Heading the RCMP

SPECULATION in Ottawa on a successor to Commissioner Nicholson as head of the RCMP is said to include the name of Major-General Burns, currently commanding the UN force in the Middle East. This may not have serious warrant and the general may not want the job in any case, although doubtless he might fill it well enough. In addition to his military record he has federal administrative experience — as a deputy minister; taken together these could qualify him. It would be a mistake nevertheless to bring in an outsider, as it were.

It may not be necessary that the head of a police force such as the RCMP should be a professional policeman, and there are precedents for putting a military man at its head. A high army officer has been there before. There is surely advantage however in having as its chief someone who knows every facet of the organization, and to whom police work is second nature. Even in a post which might be mainly administrative these attributes can scarcely be discounted.

Another factor involved is the military flavor which an appointment of this nature would give to the RCMP. This force is by its training and discipline somewhat of a semi-military organization, but even so it is still a civilian force. It is as a police force also that it has won renown throughout the world, and its strength in public favor is that it should clearly remain so.

Above all it would be unfair to the senior personnel of the RCMP not to promote from within its ranks. Officers do not reach the status of assistant commissioner, for example, without having the qualities that would fit them for the topmost post. Their training and ascendancy surely puts them in the running for advancement, and there can be no dearth of quality available in this respect. Particularly because of the events which led up to the loss of Commissioner Nicholson, in addition, it would be poor business to co-opt someone from without. The morale of the force is said to have suffered from the commissioner's resignation; it would be lowered further if the force itself was passed over to fill his shoes.

Everything Has a Start

PRIME Minister Macmillan's brief stop at Ottawa, for a visit with the Canadian government and Parliament before going on to Washington, D.C., left a cheery note behind it. Everything must have a start, even efforts to lessen tension in the cold war between East and West and prepare the way for some form of negotiation which on a gradual basis might lead towards peace. Mr. Macmillan's courage and optimism, and his conviction that a small beginning by way of direct discussion is better than all of the arms-length diplomacy which has filled the postwar years with only wider cleavage, have certainly captured the attention of the Western world.

Explained in his own words, the course the British prime minister is advocating is neither a neutral buffer zone in Europe which would be a glorified no-man's land, nor disengagement or withdrawal by the West from any of its undertakings on the integrity of national borders; but a modified and limited reduction of the armed forces now on the spot. Naturally that could not be a unilateral step, or in any sense imply the running down of NATO defensive effectiveness without some corresponding and reciprocal action on the other side. But as one concrete and positive proposal which could be advanced for East-West consideration at a high level conference this summer the proposal has its own merits.

While it remains to be seen what success the limitation of arms proposal may have at Washington, Prime Minister Macmillan had an attentive hearing for his suggestion at both Bonn and Paris. It is obvious that if the West enters into high-level discussions with Soviet Russia this summer that it can only be with a unified course of action among the allies. The limitation of arms suggestion might only be one means towards such discussions. If there are others they may emerge now at Washington, or later at Western talks on any pre-conference preparations. In any event, here is something to consider that is not another arms-length note, but a definite move towards more active and possibly profitable discussions, beginning with the desire to meet at all.

Interpreting the News

In the Catoctin Hills

By TOM WYER
United Press International

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Eisenhower and British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan will talk over world problems this weekend in an isolated retreat surrounded by Maryland's Catoctin Mountains, Camp David.

Some 15 buildings are clustered around the central mess hall where Eisenhower held cabinet meetings during his convalescence from a heart attack in 1955. Individual cottages have been carefully furnished with all modern conveniences. Some have name plates for the prominent guests who often use them.

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The camp is located on about 2,500 acres of rolling, thickly wooded countryside. The Catoctin Mountains, while not high by European standard are of good size for the flat country around Washington. It is about 68 miles from Washington.

The President's powerful helicopters can whisk a guest to the camp in 30 minutes flat from the front lawn of the White House. An added attraction for the President is the nearness of his farm home at Gettysburg, only 25 miles away.

The camp lies deep in the woods. Strangers drive by the vicinity without seeing a visible sign of so important a site. It gets cold in the mountains during March.

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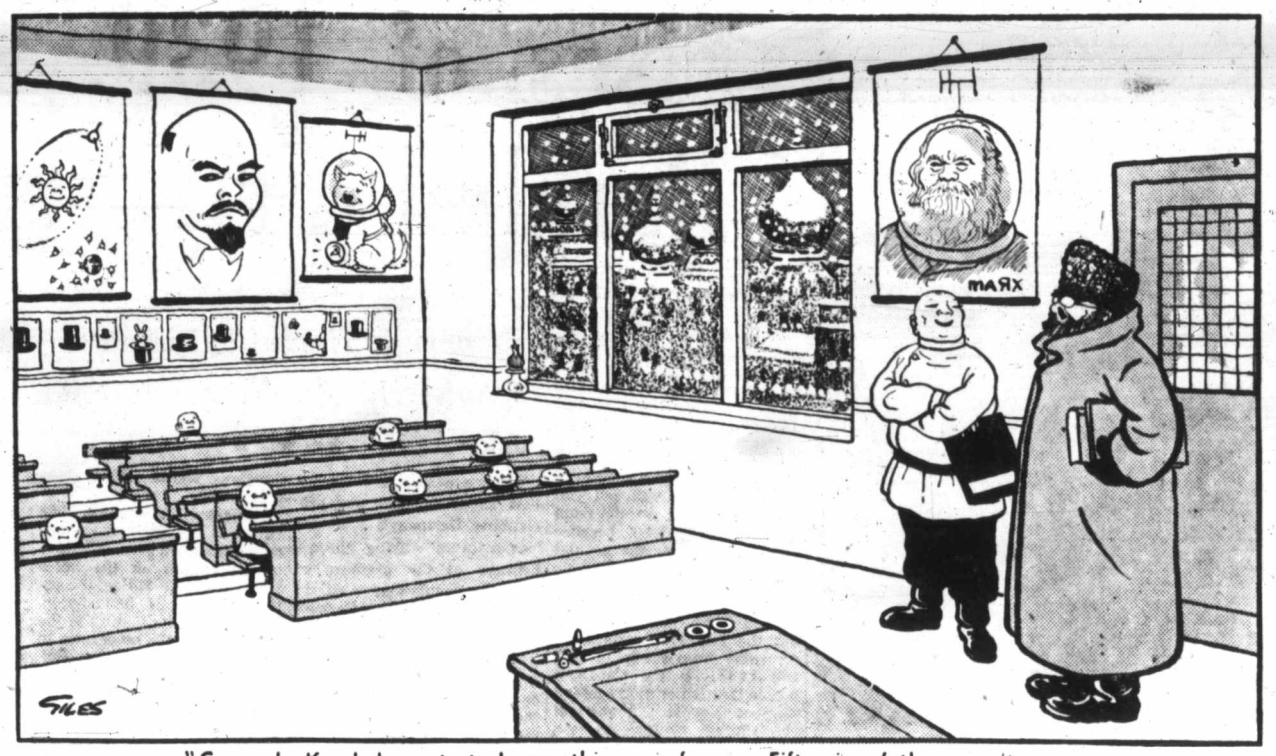
Camp David is one of the most heavily guarded places in the United States. During the Prime Minister's visits guards are likely to be reinforced.

Macmillan will stay at the President's private cottage, a spacious, single-story, greenish-gray structure topped by a thatched roof with two square, white chimneys.



"Comrade Krushchev started something, professor. Fifty-six of them can't come today because they've got diplomatic toothache."

Thinking Aloud

". . . of shoes—and ships—and sealing wax—of cabbages and kings."

By TOM TAYLOR

IN the Toronto Globe and Mail the CBC is in hot water for interrupting an opera broadcast with bulletins on the recent CBC producers strike. The news, says the paper, could well have waited until the singing had finished. So it could, I'm sure, although unfortunately that is not radio's way. None of this is so disconcerting though as a break in the program just as the villain is about to stab the hero—so that the advertisers may be served.

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Now it is true that on private stations there would be no bill of fare at all if there were no commercials, and we have grown so used to these interruptions as to absorb them easily. The mind being the flexible instrument it is we are able to hold our suspense until the break is over and the villain's knife comes down. The hiatus is often so inartistic, however, although perhaps that is a matter considered to be of small concern. These interruptions seem to grow in number, too, and one is lucky nowadays to enjoy even ten minutes of a program without some unrelated interjection.

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A medium must be what it is and operate accordingly but when it comes to news a newspaper has the advantage. It says a specific thing only once, and if you want to read the item twice the choice is purely voluntary. I suppose radio must proceed on the assumption that new listeners are tuning in all the time, but the result for the steady listener is increasing boredom. Last week I had occasion to spend a day at home and I listened on and off all day to the radio. By nightfall the same news repeated hour after hour became almost unbearable and the temptation to switch everything off was hard to resist. Special campaigns on the air are apt to do themselves to death, also, through sheer weight of repetition.

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Down east a commentator thinks that a lack of sportsmanship runs all through Canadian ice hockey, and I fear he is right. The idea that nothing counts but winning prompts a loosening of ethical standards, and certainly the swinging sticks and ice brawls that are so prevalent leave much to be desired. Yet the players are not alone to blame. Atavism is strong in most of us and even a citizen well-ordered at home tends to change character at a hockey match. Secretly he may not object to seeing an opposing team sent crashing to the boards. Actually, you know, it takes a positive effort to be a good sport, especially where physical contact games are concerned.

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The official estimate of Russian ground forces is some 400 divisions, with 68 of them ready for instant action in case of a Berlin crisis. Opposed to this would be some 15 NATO divisions of combat calibre, and the wonder is that Russia can still be so dominant in conventional military strength while leading in nuclear competition. The West is richer in resources and industrial output yet cannot match this duplication of power. The answer of course is that we are not harnessed to regimented effort as the Russians are, nor are we willing to sacrifice the civilian well-being that is now the hallmark of our civilization.

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We can't be blamed altogether for this for it means we prefer peace to war and have a laudable aim to improve the lot of mankind by giving more people a better living than ever before. The only drawback to this philosophy is that of itself goodness is no guarantee against evil, as all history so sadly indicates. Thus we are never fully ready for the day of military emergency. I doubt that democracy ever can be.

Letter From London

The Old Lion Growls Again

By RICHARD L. THOMAS

NOTHING is more disturbing than family rows, and just at the moment Mr. Harold Macmillan seems to have a plate full of trouble. Those most concerned seem to be genuinely worried about the American attitude towards European affairs. Most resentment is being caused by the inference that the British prime minister is as busy as he is because he wants to have things nicely sewn up for a summer election quite regardless of consequences.

One diplomat commented acidly, "America had an election on its hands at the time of Suez. Maybe they allowed that to influence their conduct then."

President Eisenhower's sabre-rattling reference to atomic warfare over Berlin, although uttered under pressure, has created a very unpleasant impression in Britain. It is recognized that stripped to the bones it could mean exactly nothing or, alternatively, anything. It is one of those things better left unsaid. It is suggested that it was a studied attempt to throw a spanner in the works of conciliation which Mr. Macmillan has been trying to build up.

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Amongst other things it means that Mr. Macmillan's visit to Washington will be much more difficult. Instead of discussing plans and possibilities in the light of assurances he has received in Moscow, Paris and Bonn, it means that quite a lot of time will have to be spent re-establishing goodwill and discovering whether the United States is really as jealous of British initiative as some critics suggest.

Mr. Macmillan has, after all, made the first real effort for many years to re-establish British initiative in international diplomacy. There is little doubt that he has been encouraged by both Mr. Diefenbaker and the Australian prime minister, Mr. Robert Menzies. Neither of them has been very excited about Mr. Dulles' brand of diplomacy, which seems to be threats followed by a cheque—a fusion of dollar and battleship diplomacy, a technique not much favored in Britain.

No one would be hypocritical enough to argue that Britain has not used both in her time—and may do so again. But just at the moment Britain's main strength is moral. Russia is not afraid of Britain physically—but she is afraid of the United States. But it is also true to add that Russia has greater respect for Britain than she has for the United States, and that is the reaction which seems to hurt the Department of State.

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Britain is not only willing to talk peaceful co-existence but to act upon it. Our manufacturers have obtained some valuable orders from Moscow and are expecting more. Like any other shopkeeper we are willing and anxious to sell to anyone who can put up the cash or establish an acceptable credit. We are not concerned with the customer's politics in matters of trade. Russia appreciates the realism of this attitude and accepts it as tangible evidence of practical co-existence. America on the other hand is quite unrealistic, more or less in the way that the late Senator McCarthy in the cloak of practical politics was completely unrealistic even to the point of attributing something dishonorable to a man changing his mind.

As a nation the United Kingdom loathes the Russian way of life, the Russian method of government and Russian politics; but the local store does not refuse to sell a pound of butter to a local resident who is divorced because the proprietor of the shop does not approve of divorce. Personal conduct and opinion within the law are regarded by most people in private business as things which do not concern trade. As a nation of shopkeepers we have extended that view to international trade. We believe that nothing is more likely to cause war than the denial of the right to trade.

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This approach has been one of the main differences of policy between Britain and the United States for years. Mr. Macmillan has been concerned with developing it and trying to add on to it practical diplomacy primarily because trade generally only thrives in peace, even though individual industry may benefit from war. President Eisenhower may not realize it, but the action of the United States in refusing lower British tenders for such things as generating machinery has merely strengthened the view that America, while anxious to close her own doors to overseas trade and close those of Communist countries for the Western powers, is insistent that other non-American countries should be wide open to American trade.

Britain has been trying to live with an impossible attitude. It has made good use of the few avenues open to British traders in the United States but it is no longer prepared to allow the United States to attempt to dominate both trade and diplomacy. There may have been a lot of tail twisting but the old lion is growling again. Maybe Mr. Macmillan will talk co-existence to the president.

Without Wavering

Macmillan Talks to Russia

(From The Chicago Tribune)

WE have already commented briefly on Prime Minister Harold Macmillan's television address to the Soviet Union. Surely it was one of the memorable public utterances of our generation. Rereading confirms this impression.

This 30-minute address by the British prime minister was the most substantial and eloquent presentation of Western values permitted in Russia since the Bolshevik Revolution. It said far more, of course, than the official communique released by Macmillan and Khrushchev at the conclusion of their conversations. It said far more than a good many reams of official oratory from various heads of government, including our own, on more important occasions. For Macmillan improved his opportunity to describe, with a courtesy equal to firmness, the cultural and spiritual heritage and possession of free countries. He developed his theme with uncontestable, specific facts rather than with windy rhetoric.

Mr. Macmillan conceded Britain's poverty in most natural resources, but went on to assert his country's achievements in invention, technology, science, and industry. He cited his country's accomplishments in housing and education, its independence and development of trade, its interest in the existence of prosperous foreign markets. All this is true, and doubtless of interest to an audience ill informed concerning the West's material accomplishments and no doubt interested in hearing of them.

But Macmillan did not stop there. He said: "We believe that man has a spiritual destiny also. Every individual should have freedom to develop his personality. On this foundation, our whole political system is built. We hold that the state exists for man."

As Macmillan referred to electoral defeats suffered by Winston Churchill and himself, Russian listeners who have never had a chance to defeat an incumbent running for re-election could not fail to recognize the contrast between their own society and that of the countries they are encouraged to despise. As Macmillan spoke with pride of the evolution of Empire into Commonwealth, with independent nations in voluntary association with each other, the contrast with the intimidated Russian satellites could not be missed.

In a manner that could hardly alienate the most fanatical Communist, though he was saying things that contradicted, root and branch, the qualities of a totalitarian state, Macmillan had prepared for his conclusion. Why were not relations between Russia and Britain better than they are? "We each see the world differently," he stated. There is no counterpart in Russia to the British combination of "order and freedom." A high proportion of his Russian listeners must have felt regret that this is true.

Quickly evoking the common humanity and the common danger from war that should unite the British and Russian peoples, Macmillan stated three simple and obvious ways of improving international relations: avoiding unilateral disturbances of the existing situation; recognizing the need for deeds rather than mere words; making a start in reaching agreements. These words may seem innocuous—but every point was a telling criticism of Russia's habitual conduct of her foreign affairs.

We commend close study of Macmillan's television broadcast from Moscow to all statesmen trying to speak the truth with goodwill. In this address, the West had a spokesman at the same time firm and gentle, uncompromising but conciliatory, considerate of his audience without wavering in respect for himself and for the nation and culture he represented.

The Packsack

Of GREGORY CLARK

ALL across the midwest and southern United States on a recent tour I was impressed by the number of what in Russia and China are called collective farms, but which in America are called company farms. It amounts to the same thing, only in the communist countries they are owned by the state, and in America they are privately owned. Some of the owners are simply super-farmers, men with more business acumen than most farmers, with larger ideas, who have, with the expansion of mechanized agricultural techniques, merely added to their land holdings and converted themselves into managers, rather than the farmers, of outsize farms.

But a majority of these huge industrialized farms are owned and operated by businessmen, many of them bankers and financiers, who buy up huge tracts of valuable arable land and then employ college-trained agriculturalists to manage the enterprise. Such corporations can readily afford the heavy capital outlay necessary for the latest machines. Their business experience and contacts enable them to seek out the best markets. Their operations are keyed up to the level of the most enlightened industrial processes of production and distribution.

The people who do the actual farming, the ones who touch the land with their hands, if such a thing is permissable in these land-factories, are hired men, and from what I saw of them, they seem content to be mechanics of the soil.